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8051 28th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115
May 29, 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

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DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing to encourage you to protect the uncontaminated areas at Hanford as a permanent national land legacy.

This land contains the best of what remains of the shrub-steppe ecosystem that once covered eastern Washington. It supports hundreds of diverse native plant and animal species including white pelicans and rare wildflowers. Also, the Hanford Reach, as the last free-flowing part of the Columbia River in the U.S., provides spawning the rearing habitat for fall chinook salmon. Agriculture and other uses of the surrounding lands have destroyed similar habitats, making the Hanford Site a particularly wonderful way to preserve this natural ecosystem.

Following the guidelines of The Nature Conservancy, I urge you to manage the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River Islands as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge.. This will provide a large crescent of protected habitat lands to surround the Hanford Site.

Also, to ensure long-term protection for native species and systems across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be no agriculture, commercial mining or livestock grazing permitted.

Yours truly,



Janet Kimball